

DOCKET NO.: 196726US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
OLIVIER DE LACHARRIERE, ET AL. : EXAMINER: WILLIS, M.  
SERIAL NO: 09/686,997 :  
FILED: OCTOBER 12, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1617  
FOR: USE OF DHEA OR PRECURSORS :  
OR METABOLIC DERIVATIVES  
THEREOF AS A DEPIGMENTING  
AGENT

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated January 15, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 12, 20, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, and 33 as follows:

12. (Thrice Amended) A method of depigmenting and/or bleaching of the skin and/or to improving the homogeneity of the color of the skin, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to the skin, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol, 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione and said biological precursor thereof is selected from the group consisting of pregnenolone, 17 $\beta$ -hydroxypregnenolone, 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone sulfate and 5-androstenediol sulfate.